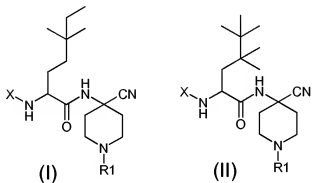
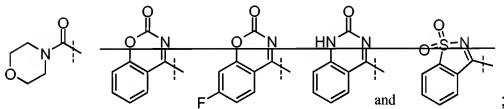


Current Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of the formula (I) or (II) :



wherein X in each case is chosen from —



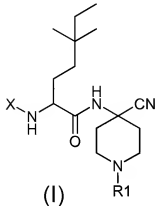
R1 is chosen from hydrogen or alkyl branched or straight chain alkyl, each carbon atom in the chain is optionally replaced with one to three heteroatoms chosen from O, S, and N-R2 wherein R2 is hydrogen or alkyl;

and wherein R1 is optionally further substituted by one or more alkoxy, amine, halogen, carbocycle, heteroaryl or heterocycle;

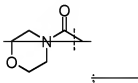
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

in the formula (I)



~~X is chosen from~~ _____



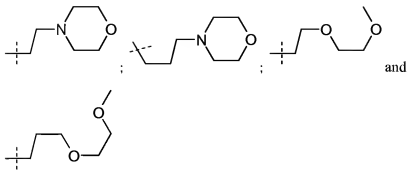
R1 is chosen from hydrogen or C1-10 alkyl branched or straight chain C1-10 alkyl, each carbon atom in the chain is optionally replaced with one to three heteroatoms chosen from O, S, and N-R2 wherein R2 is hydrogen or C1-5 alkyl;

and wherein R1 is optionally further substituted by one or more C1-5 alkoxy, amine, heterocycle or halogen.

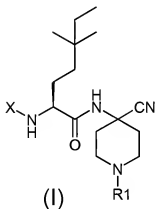
Claim 3 (original): The compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein of R1 is C1-5 alkyl.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compound according to any of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein of R1 is C1-3 alkyl, ~~preferably methyl.~~

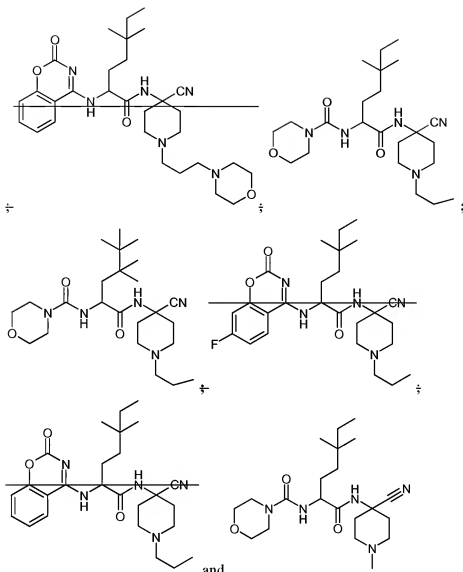
Claim 5 (original): The compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein R1 is chosen from:



Claim 6 (original): The compound according to any of claims 1-5 wherein the compound of the formula (I) is the (S) enantiomer which possesses a natural amino acid configuration at the indicated chiral carbon below

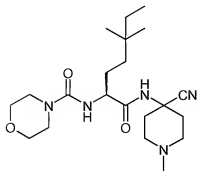


Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound chosen from



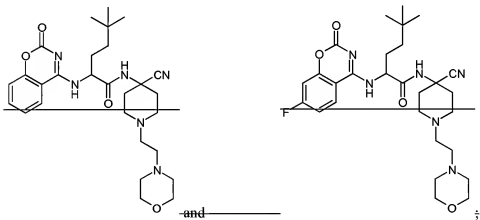
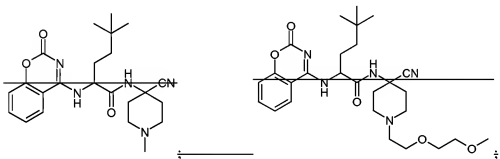
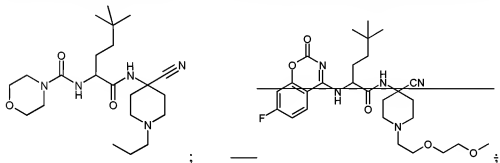
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein the compound is:



wherein the indicated chiral carbon is the (S) enantiomer which possesses a natural amino acid configuration.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound wherein the compound is chosen from:



or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 10 (withdrawn - currently amended): A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:

rheumatoid arthritis, ~~systemic lupus erythematosus~~, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, ~~Guillain-Barre syndrome~~, psoriasis, Grave's disease, myasthenia gravis, scleroderma, glomerulonephritis, ~~dermatitis including contact and atopic dermatitis~~, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, endometriosis, asthma, ~~Alzheimer's disease~~ and atherosclerosis; comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.